

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/GB2006/002860

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. B63B27/14

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
B63B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)
EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	GB 2 175 860 A (LINKLETTERS PATENT SHIP FITTING) 10 December 1986 (1986-12-10) the whole document	1,2,5, 9-14,16, 18-23
X	GB 2 225 753 A (OFFSHORE DESIGN ENGINEERING LI [GB]) 13 June 1990 (1990-06-13) the whole document	1-23
X	US 2003/217681 A1 (FUNK JAMES E [US]) 27 November 2003 (2003-11-27) paragraph [0029]; figures 4,5	1-6,8, 11-23
	-/--	

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- * & * document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

20 October 2006

Date of mailing of the international search report

26/10/2006

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

DE SENA HERNANDORENA

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/GB2006/002860

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	FR 2 465 640 A (CHAMBON CIE STE GLE REMORQ TRA [FR]) 27 March 1981 (1981-03-27) the whole document	1,2,5,9, 10, 12-14, 16-23
X	FR 2 586 641 A2 (ROUME CHRISTIAN [FR]) 6 March 1987 (1987-03-06) the whole document	1-3,9, 10,12-23
X	WO 02/20343 A (P & R SYSTEMS [NL]; PRINS REINOUT KLAAR NORFOLC JA [NL]) 14 March 2002 (2002-03-14) the whole document	1,2,9, 10,12, 16-23
X	WO 97/29946 A (KOPPERNAES A S [NO]; UNDERTUN STEINAR [NO]) 21 August 1997 (1997-08-21) the whole document	1-4, 8-10, 16-23
X	JP 55 091488 A (MITSUI SHIPBUILDING ENG) 11 July 1980 (1980-07-11) abstract	1,2,5,9, 10, 12-14, 16-23

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/GB2006/002860



Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
GB 2175860	A	10-12-1986	NONE
GB 2225753	A	13-06-1990	NO 894730 A 05-06-1990
US 2003217681	A1	27-11-2003	NONE
FR 2465640	A	27-03-1981	NONE
FR 2586641	A2	06-03-1987	NONE
WO 0220343	A	14-03-2002	AT 335652 T 15-09-2006 AU 9438801 A 22-03-2002 BR 0113414 A 29-07-2003 CA 2421428 A1 14-03-2002 EP 1315651 A1 04-06-2003 NL 1016111 C2 07-03-2002 US 2003182741 A1 02-10-2003
WO 9729946	A	21-08-1997	AT 186882 T 15-12-1999 AU 715457 B2 03-02-2000 AU 1814197 A 02-09-1997 DE 69605329 D1 30-12-1999 EP 0879172 A1 25-11-1998 NO 960559 A 14-08-1997 PL 328429 A1 01-02-1999
JP 55091488	A	11-07-1980	NONE

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

To: see form PCT/ISA/220		Date of mailing (day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)	
		FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below	
Applicant's or agent's file reference see form PCT/ISA/220			
International application No. PCT/GB2006/002860	International filing date (day/month/year) 31.07.2006	Priority date (day/month/year) 01.08.2005	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC INV. B63B27/14			
Applicant THE ENGINEERING BUSINESS LIMITED			
<p>1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the opinion</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application</p> <p>2. FURTHER ACTION</p> <p>If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.</p> <p>If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.</p> <p>For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.</p> <p>3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.</p>			
Name and mailing address of the ISA:  European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016		Date of completion of this opinion see form PCT/ISA/210	Authorized Officer DE SENA HERNANDORENA Telephone No. +31 70 340-2704 

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/GB2006/002860

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed
 - ☐ a translation of the international application into , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1 (b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 - ☐ a sequence listing
 - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 - ☐ on paper
 - ☐ in electronic form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
 - ☐ filed together with the international application in electronic form.
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/GB2006/002860

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-23
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-23
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-23
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V.

1 Reference is made to the following documents:

- D1: GB-A-2 175 860 (LINKLETTERS PATENT SHIP FITTING) 10 December 1986 (1986-12-10)
- D2: GB-A-2 225 753 (OFFSHORE DESIGN ENGINEERING LI [GB]) 13 June 1990 (1990-06-13)
- D3: US 2003/217681 A1 (FUNK JAMES E [US]) 27 November 2003 (2003-11-27)
- D4: FR-A-2 465 640 (CHAMBON CIE STE GLE REMORQ TRA [FR]) 27 March 1981 (1981-03-27)
- D5: FR-A2-2 586 641 (ROUME CHRISTIAN [FR]) 6 March 1987 (1987-03-06)
- D6: WO 02/20343 A (P & R SYSTEMS [NL]; PRINS REINOUT KLAAR NORFOLC JA [NL]) 14 March 2002 (2002-03-14)
- D7: WO 97/29946 A (KOPPERNAES A S [NO]; UNDERTUN STEINAR [NO]) 21 August 1997 (1997-08-21)
- D8: JP 55 091488 A (MITSUI SHIPBUILDING ENG) 11 July 1980 (1980-07-11)

2 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1

The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT. Document D1 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

An apparatus for providing bridge structure from a first marine structure to a second marine structure, comprising a gangway component (6), a runway (Page 2, line 48) on which the gangway component is mounted in a stored condition (Fig. 1) and along which the gangway component may operatively move between the stored condition and a use condition (Figs. 2, 3, 4) and control means (Page 2, lines 55- 81) operative to control the movement of the gangway component to or from the stored position.

3 Dependent claims do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING
AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.

PCT/GB2006/002860

respect of novelty, see documents D2-D8 and the corresponding passages cited in the search report.